

66-9161

4 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Bill Moyers
The White House

1. You will recall that on Friday, 25 February, I spoke to you on the 'phone about an Alsop column concerning which the President had spoken to me that morning. You told me that he had reference to a column which was to appear on Monday. As you will note in the attached paper, written for me by the Deputy Director of our National Estimates Board, Mr. Alsop's figures are not those which appeared in Agency or United States Intelligence Board publications. Further, I did some quick checking that Friday, and learned that Mr. Alsop had not been in touch with any officers of the Agency since his return to Washington the Sunday preceding. In addition, I learned this week from Secretary Vance that Alsop, in response to a question, had told him he obtained the figures for the column from "The McChristian Report", the reference being to General McChristian who had been with MACV intelligence in Saigon. In any event, I am satisfied that the numbers used in this column did not originate with any member of this Agency.

2. I send you the foregoing for your information and in the event you care to mention the matter to the President. Please return the attachment since I think you will agree that it would be unfortunate if any newspaperman should come across it through any mischance.

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Deputy Director

Attachment

RHelms/ecd - 4/3/66
Distribution: Orig - addressee
1 - ER

White House